

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussions, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-21 are now active in this application.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. However, Claims 1-21 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

Amended Claims 1-3, 6-8 and 19-21 are fully supported by the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed. Applicant therefore submits that no new matter has been introduced.

Claims 1-3, 6-8 and 19-21 have been amended to clarify the subject matter originally recited therein. Thus, the claim amendments directed to these claims are not believed to narrow the scopes of their respective original claims.

In response to the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph regarding the term “liquid amount storage”, Claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 19 and 20 have been amended to change the term “liquid amount storage” to “liquid amount memory”. Further, the specification has been amended to clarify that “liquid amount memory” corresponds to a liquid amount storing section 26. Accordingly, Claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 19 and 20 are now believed to be in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

With respect to the rejection of Claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Claim 20 is directed to a liquid shortage

detecting system, but not to an automated chemical synthesizer. The liquid shortage detecting system is used for the automated chemical synthesizer. Therefore, various elements of the automated chemical synthesizer, for example, a plurality of liquid containers and a plurality of reaction vessels are not claimed elements of the liquid shortage detecting system recited in Claim 20 even though claimed elements are configured to interact with the various elements of the automated chemical synthesizer. Therefore, the rejection of Claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph should be withdrawn.

Likewise, the rejection of Claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph should be withdrawn.

If, however, the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work in a joint effort to derive mutually satisfactory claim language.

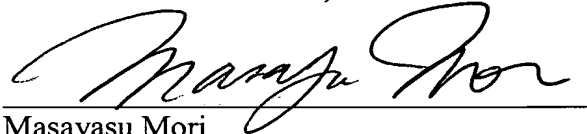
As discussed above, since Claims 1-21 are now believed to be in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, Claims 1-21 are believed to be allowable.

Application No. 09/492,451
Reply to Office Action of September 9, 2003

In view of the amendments, and in view of the indication of allowable subject matter,
Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance, and
an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Masayasu Mori', is written over a horizontal line.

Masayasu Mori
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 47,301

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)
MM/TC:jm
I:\USER\MSMOR\SHIMADZU\4406-0011-2\AME.DOC